

LEXINGTON HERALD
1 May 1978

Politics, not spying, is CIA's game, says professor

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"The bad old days are over."

That, essentially, was the message in an April speech here by CIA Chief Stansfield Turner — a promise that CIA abuses were a thing of the past.

Among the crowd waiting to hear Turner was George Potratz, a long-haired, bearded, 33-year-old University of Kentucky English instructor. A critic of the CIA, he was holding a sign that read, "Patterson School, CIA Academy."

When he heard noises at the rear of the UK Student Center ballroom, he rushed over. "What's going on here?" he asked UK police Chief Paul Harrison. There was no answer.

"Will you talk to me?" he asked louder.

"You're under arrest," Harrison said.

The assistant professor, in the last year of a six-year contract with UK, describes himself as a democratic socialist, and was active in demonstrating against the Vietnam War. He has apparently never been a man without a cause.

Protests were nothing new for Potratz. Being arrested was.

Q. Do you think you should have been arrested?

A. No, I definitely don't think we should have been arrested. I was arrested before the speech ever began, and all I did was go back and ask the head of university police, "What's going on here?" because they were arresting these people out of the back

of the hall before the speech ever started.

I and the others had been holding up signs, which is apparently what we were arrested for. And that was called disrupting a public meeting.

Q. Do you feel you were disrupting the speech?

A. No. Nobody intended to prevent him (Turner) from speaking. We were attempting to use the occasion to exercise our own rights of speech and express our outrage over the CIA. It's not just Iranians who are outraged at the CIA.

Q. What has happened since the arrests?

A. We face a hearing on May 18. The eight adult Iranians had to put up \$200 bonds the night of the arrests. The three Americans were each released on their own recognizance, but the Iranians were all assessed twice the recommended bail. There was a ninth Iranian who was a juvenile.

Q. Have university officials said anything about it?

A. No.

Q. What was the purpose of the protest?

A. To try to call attention to and protest the activities of the CIA — not just in Iran but around the world.

Q. How did the university police handle the arrests?

A. I was kind of appalled by it, to tell you the truth. Maybe I'm naive, but somehow I haven't thought of the university police in that way. They were all in full riot gear, and they really gave us the full, heavy-duty treatment. They beat one of the Iranians.

Q. Was it an organized protest?

A. Most of the signs were signs from the organized demonstration that took place before the speech. The signs that I and the other two Americans were arrested for were signs that we had made and had carried in from the outside.

Q. What did your sign say?

A. Mine said, "Patterson School, Central Intelligence Academy."

Q. What does that mean?

A. The Patterson School is clearly related to the CIA in some way. It's the school of diplomacy. They recruit people for the CIA as well as other government agencies. I don't know a great deal about it.

But the school is very proud, I think, of being a patriotic recruiting school for the diplomatic corps and the CIA.

Q. Are you a member of the Iranian organizations?

A. No.

Q. Generally, what is the concern of the Iranians?

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